

CLAIMS

1. An airbag cover, comprising:
a substrate having an exposed surface;
at least one tear seam disposed in the exposed surface; and
5 a unitary applique film that is disposed on the exposed surface and is disposed across the tear seam, wherein the tear seam and applique film are frangible and rupture in response to expansion of an inflatable cushion to permit the cushion to deploy through the substrate and applique film.
2. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the applique film comprises a
10 laminate of layers.
3. The airbag cover of claim 2, wherein the applique film comprises a colored layer and an outer layer.
4. The airbag cover of claim 2, wherein the applique film comprises a layer
that is disposed on select areas of the exposed surface.
- 15 5. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the applique film comprises a single layer.
6. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the applique film has a thickness no greater than 0.5 mm.
7. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the applique film has a thickness no
20 greater than 1.0 mm.

8. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a narrow point that facilitates rupturing of the applique film.

9. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a local peak that facilitates rupturing of the applique film.

5 10. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the substrate is at least 2.5 mm thick adjacent to the tear seam.

11. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a hinged flap.

10 12. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the applique film comprises a tear seam.

13. The airbag cover of claim 12, wherein the tear seam of the applique film is generally aligned with the tear seam in the exposed surface.

14. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the applique film is at least substantially transparent.

15 15. The airbag cover of claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises an injected material.

16. An airbag cover, comprising:
a substrate having an exposed surface;
at least one tear seam in the exposed surface; and

5 a unitary applique film that is disposed on the exposed surface and is disposed across the tear seam, wherein the tear seam and applique film are frangible and rupture in response to expansion of an inflatable cushion to permit the cushion to deploy through the substrate and applique film, and wherein the applique film includes an emblem design aligned with corresponding contours in the substrate to produce a three-dimensional emblem.

17. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the applique film comprises a laminate of layers.

10 18. The airbag cover of claim 17, wherein the applique film comprises a colored layer and an outer layer.

19. The airbag cover of claim 17, wherein the applique film comprises a layer that is disposed on select areas of the exposed surface.

20. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the applique film comprises a single layer.

15 21. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the applique film has a thickness no greater than 0.5 mm.

22. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the substrate has a narrow point that facilitates rupturing of the applique film.

20 23. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the substrate has a local peak that facilitates rupturing of the applique film.

24. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the substrate is at least 2.5 mm thick adjacent to the tear seam.

25. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the substrate comprises a hinged flap.

26. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the applique film comprises a tear seam.

27. The airbag cover of claim 26, wherein the tear seam of the applique film is generally aligned with the tear seam in the exposed surface.

28. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the three-dimensional emblem is a vehicle manufacturer's logo.

29. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the applique film is at least substantially transparent.

30. The airbag cover of claim 16, wherein the substrate comprises an injected material.

31. An airbag cover, comprising:
a substrate having an exposed surface;
at least one tear seam in the exposed surface; and
a unitary applique film that is disposed on and covers an entirety of the exposed surface and is disposed across at least one tear seam, wherein each tear seam and the

applique film are frangible and rupture in response to expansion of an inflatable cushion to permit the cushion to deploy through the substrate and applique film.

32. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the applique film comprises a laminate of layers.

5 33. The airbag cover of claim 32, wherein the applique film comprises a layer that is disposed on select areas of the exposed surface.

34. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the applique film comprises a single layer.

10 35. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the substrate comprises a hinged flap.

36. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the applique film has a thickness no greater than 0.5 mm.

37. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the applique film has a thickness no greater than 1.0 mm.

15 38. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the substrate has a narrow point that facilitates rupturing of the applique film.

39. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the substrate has a local peak that facilitates rupturing of the applique film.

20 40. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the substrate is at least 2.5 mm thick adjacent to the tear seam.

41. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the applique film comprises a tear seam generally aligned with the tear seam in the exposed surface.

42. The airbag cover of claim 31, wherein the substrate comprises an injected material.

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43. An airbag cover, comprising:

substrate means for concealing an inflatable cushion, the substrate means having an exposed surface;

tear seam means in the exposed surface that enables the cushion to emerge through the substrate during inflation of the cushion; and

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unitary applique film means that provides a cosmetic cover for the substrate, wherein the applique film means is disposed on the exposed surface and is disposed across the tear seam means, wherein the tear seam means and applique film means are frangible and rupture in response to expansion of the cushion to permit the cushion to deploy through the substrate means and applique film means.

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